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DOA Reopens First Floor Capitol Doors

Doors Locked Following September 11, 2001

After being closed for more than 12 years, the Capitol's first floor doors are now open. Today, the Department of Administration (DOA) reopened these doors which had been locked as an additional security precaution following the September 11, 2001, attacks on the United States.

"In 2001, closing the first floor Capitol doors was an understandable precaution because our nation had been attacked, and no one knew what the next target would be," said DOA Secretary Mike Huebsch. "Our focus is open and transparent government, and the Capitol's entrances should be open to our citizens that visit this beautiful building each year – it is both a literal and symbolic gesture."

The first floor exterior doors on East Washington Avenue, Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, West Washington Avenue and Wisconsin Avenue have all been opened. These are the entrances at the top of the steps on each of these streets. People have been entering the Capitol on the ground floor, which is the street level of the building.

Each year, approximately 500,000 people visit Wisconsin's Capitol building and grounds. DOA and the Capitol Police will continually monitor security measures to ensure public safety in the building.

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